



# MANATABA MESSENGER

A Publication of the Colorado River Indian Tribes

Volume III Issue VI

December, 2005

## Site plan considered for Wal-Mart center

**Outlines layout of shopping center and ancillary stores and restaurants; CRIT Tribal Council will vote on approval**

The CRIT Tribal Council will soon be considering a preliminary site plan for the new Wal-Mart Shopping Center being built across from the Safeway Plaza in Parker.

The project would provide new convenience for Tribal members and millions in new tax revenue for critical Tribal services.

**"So far, we believe the site plan submitted by Wal-Mart is a good start and something all sides can work with...We're looking forward to the completion of this center and the economic impact it will bring."**

**— Tribal Chairman Daniel Eddy, Jr.**

The site plan outlines the eventual layout of the property, and shows what other types and sizes of stores could be built along with the Wal-

Mart store itself.

The site plan will show the layout of the Wal-Mart store and of the other stores and restaurants that would be built on the property.

The approval of the site plan is a key step in moving the project forward toward its opening.

It is also an opportunity for CRIT to have input into the eventual appearance and types of stores at the site.

"So far, we believe the site plan submitted by

**Please see WAL-MART, Page 12**

## 2005: It was a very good year

**Return of La Paz Lands highlights a year of accomplishment for CRIT**

From economic development to legal issues to the return of lands taken 90 years ago, 2005 was a year of victories for CRIT and its people.

It was a year that will be remembered by many Tribal members as one where new opportunities surfaced for the Tribes, and a year when many long-time battles were resolved in CRIT's favor.

And it should serve as a launching point toward continued growth and quality-of-life improvements for Tribal members.

Some of the highlights included:

### **The return of the La Paz Lands**

Without question, the biggest highlight for CRIT during 2005 was the return of the La Paz Lands by the federal government.

The Lands, a 16,000-acre parcel that now once again make up the CRIT reservation's

**Please see 2005, Page 6**

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## Fall Gathering celebrates culture



The fifth annual Fall Gathering was an opportunity for Tribal members and those from other tribes to get together and celebrate native culture, song and dance.

The event, which took place at the BlueWater Resort & Casino on November 19, featured traditional song and dance from Native American groups throughout the region, as well as arts and crafts displays and exhibits.

Hundreds of people attended the event, from throughout the area.

More photos of the event appear on Page 7 of this issue.

*(Above) The Crown Dancers from the White Mountain Apache Tribe performed at the event with other dance groups.*

*(Right) One of the dancers at the Fall Gathering performs a fast-paced traditional dance for the crowd.*

# News, information from your Tribal Government

Chairman Daniel Eddy Jr.  
Vice Chairman Russell Welsh  
Tribal Council: Sylvia “Cindy” Homer (Secretary),  
Eldred Enas (Treasurer), Dennis Patch,  
Ray Aspa, Sr., Herman “TJ” Laffoon,  
Valerie Welsh-Tahbo, Fernando “Bo” Flores

## If you thought 2005 was good, wait until 2006

There’s no question that 2005 has been a memorable year for the Colorado River Indian Tribes. Together, we’ve achieved a number of significant victories and improved our quality of life on the reservation.

So what do we do for an encore? How do we make 2006 as productive and fruitful as 2005?

Here are just a few of the priorities the CRIT Tribal Government will be addressing in the coming year.

- Finishing the planning phases on the Wal-Mart Shopping Center so that it can open its doors sometime in the next 12 months. CRIT is committed to making this beneficial project a reality — but also, to taking our time to make sure we do it right.
- Work through the issues regarding the proposed Blythe casino. CRIT and Blythe officials are currently working with the state of California on a gaming compact. Again, though, we have to make sure that CRIT enters into an agreement that is the best one possible for our people.
- CRIT is working on getting a grant for a new produce cooling facility on the reservation. Should this grant come through, it will significantly aid CRIT Farms’ ability to provide fresh produce to stores in the region, and will be a tremendous economic benefit to the Tribes.
- CRIT also remains committed to restoring the Poston internment camp, and currently, Congress is considering a bill that would provide a substantial funding source for internment camps across the country, so that this era in American history can be remembered and preserved. CRIT will do what it can to support this legislation.
- Drug use on the reservation continues to be a problem, and CRIT is working to address it through its zero-tolerance policy. In the coming months, that will mean continued efforts to establish a family drug court, drug testing for Tribal employees and a continued crackdown on drug possession and use by law enforcement.
- Over the past couple of years, CRIT has worked diligently to improve Tribal communications, both on the reservation and outside of it. This effort has lead to the rebirth of this newspaper, and to the construction of a comprehensive Tribal web site. CRIT will continue to look at ways to enhance its communications with members and those interested in doing business with the Tribes.

There are many more improvements on tap, too many to list in this space. So even after a year like 2005, when so much was accomplished, there will always be more to do.

But if 2005 has proven anything, it’s that by working together, we can accomplish almost anything we set our minds to.

## Discussion continues on gaming ruling

### NIGC appeals CRIT court victory; compromise measure examined

The National Indian Gaming Association (NIGC) has appealed an August court ruling in which a federal judge ruled in favor of CRIT concerning the NIGC’s authority to audit Class III gaming.

CRIT claimed that the NIGC overstepped its authority and infringed on sovereignty in a 2001 audit, a view upheld by the federal courts. The case is now scheduled to go before the Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. Additionally, legislation has been introduced in Congress that

...The Court concluded that Congress intended Indian tribes to work cooperatively with states to develop the framework for regulating Class III Indian gaming through the Tribal-State Compact Process. The Minimum Internal Control Standards regulations (“MICS”) issued by the NIGC were held to be beyond the agency's statutory authority. In light of the CRIT decision, the NIGC is seeking legislation to authorize it to issue Minimum Internal Control Standards regulations.

In Arizona, both the State and Tribes recognize the critical role that strong internal controls play in the operation and regulation of casinos. As part of our compact process, the State and Tribes agreed to a set of Minimum Internal Control Standards that are patterned after, and in many areas exceed the requirements of, the NIGC’s MICS.

would increase the NIGC’s authority over Class III gaming, a move which CRIT and other Tribes oppose. That legislation is currently under consideration. However, a compromise measure is being considered that would more clearly define the NIGC’s regulatory role, while still preserving Tribal sovereignty.

The measure has gained the support of the National Indian Gaming Association and a number of Tribes nationwide. Additionally, Governor Janet Napolitano has echoed this position as well in a letter to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. Excerpts from the text of the letter are below.

I believe that the oversight of Indian gaming in Arizona reflects the proper balance of the roles of Tribal, State and federal regulators. This balance was achieved through the compact process, approved by the voters, and is consistent with NIGC’s role in adopting and enforcing its MICS.

If the NIGC’s role or authority had been different when our current compacts were negotiated, we likely would not have achieved the proper balance of the roles of the Tribal, State and federal regulators. Likewise, if Congress amends the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (“IGRA”) to change the role and authority of the NIGC from what it was when our compacts were negotiated, the roles of the three regulatory arms may no longer be in the proper balance in Arizona today.

— Governor Janet Napolitano

## — Letters to the editor —

### Prisoners ask for spiritual help

I am a Tribal member who receives your publication. I’m writing for two reasons. One, to thank you for the work your editing team does. I was reading the paper when I came about the “Speak Out” section, with a picture of my father, James Chee. I have not seen him in over 10 years, and it was good to see him. I’m 23 now, with a child Leah L. Lopez, who is registered in Soboba. Thank you again.

The second reason I wrote is, I’m a Native American who is incarcerated in the California Department of Corrections at the Ironwood Prison outside of Blythe.

We Indian brothers are without a spiritual advisor, and have been for a long time. We have been asked if we know of anyone who can take that job. I ask anyone to help. Our sweat lodge is

old and worn, the rocks are old and broken, we have no medicine and we are in desperate need.

We ask anybody out there to help us. Please contact me if you are interested in helping, so I can get the necessary people in contact so our suffering can end. Thank you.

**Edward Lopez**  
 CDC#T27559  
 Ironwood D2-2333UP  
 P.O. Box 2199  
 Blythe, CA 92226-2199

### Letter of thanks

I would like to thank Trinnie & Cranston Laffoon for assisting me in obtaining a rural mailbox. I appreciate your assistance. Thank you.

**Ethelyn McCowan**

### We want to hear from you!

The *Manataba Messenger* encourages letters to the editor. Share your thoughts on key issues and tell us about things the people of CRIT might find of interest. We will publish a maximum of 250 words; longer letters will be edited for length.

You may send letters to:  
 Route 1, Box 23-B Parker, AZ 85344  
 You may also e-mail letters to [critnews@aol.com](mailto:critnews@aol.com)

# Halloween shot wins photo contest



## Submit now, win in February

Elaine Tahbo-Baran of San Pedro, California was the winner of the December *Manataba Messenger* photo contest with her photo of her two-month-old daughter Sophie on Halloween. Elaine will receive \$100 for her winning entry.

Second prize goes to Cynthia Ameelyenah for her photo of Aileen Ameelyenah and Lisa Logan in traditional dress (below). She will receive \$50 for her entry. Third prize goes to Michelle Maughan of North Ogden, Utah for her photo of her daughter Dailee (bottom left). She will receive \$25.

Honorable mention goes to Dana Burns of LaGrande, Oregon for her photo of her family at a lake (bottom right).

The photo contest will take place in every issue! The next issue will come out around February 1st. The deadline for submissions for the photo contest is January 15. You must be a tribal member, and no professional portraits are eligible.

To enter, send your picture to: *Manataba Messenger*, C/O Rose & Allyn Public Relations, 7051 E. 5th Avenue Suite B, Scottsdale, AZ 85251. Or just e-mail the entry to [critnews@aol.com](mailto:critnews@aol.com).



# Upcoming Events

## Events coming to BlueWater Resort

- On January 7, 2006 Best in the Desert and Epic Racing Products will hold its first race of 2006, the EPIC Suspension's Parker 250, "The Duel in the Desert" for motorcycles & quads. This race will be ran on a 75-mile loop, raced around three times, plus an additional eight miles to the finish line. The race starts in downtown Parker and finishes along the Colorado River at the BlueWater Resort & Casino. For more information on this event contact Best in the Desert at (702) 457-5775 or visit their web site at [www.bitd.com](http://www.bitd.com).

- On January 21, 2006 "Harmik," a tribute to Tom Jones, will perform at the BlueWater. Tom Jones is a legend and an icon in the entertainment world. His popularity has spanned nearly four decades and doesn't seem to be waning. A long as Jones is popular so too will his top impersonator — Harmik.

Harmik has become synonymous with Tom Jones. He is internationally recognized and praised as the #1 Jones look- and sound-alike in the world. He has established himself as a staple at corporate events, private functions and full stage solo concert performances.

There will be two shows that night with the first show at 5 p.m. and second at 8 p.m. Ticket prices are \$15 in advance and \$20 day-of-show.

- On February 3-5, 2006, Best in the Desert and BlueWater Resort & Casino present the BlueWater Resort & Casino Parker 425, "The Legend Lives On." Enjoy buggy and truck racing at its best. The course will be a 140-mile loop and be raced three times.

Shea Road, Osborne Wash and The Phyton will open for spectators. Times Trials will be on Thursday (spectators are welcome), and the Tech & Contingency inspection will be on Friday at the East Parking Lot of the BlueWater Resort & Casino.

Race day is Saturday, with the awards presentation on Sunday in the Bingo Hall. For more information contact Best in the Desert at (702) 457-5775 or visit [www.bitd.com](http://www.bitd.com)

- February 5, 2006 is Super Sunday Party in the Dig Lounge. There will be a \$10 cover charge starting at 3 pm and includes your favorite game food and more. It also includes entry for prize giveaways, with the grand prize of a recliner chair and a TV.

Get to the Lounge early, as seating is limited. Giveaways and drink specials throughout the game.

- On Saturday, February 11th, 2006, Turn The Page, a tribute to Bob Seger and The Silver Bullet Band, will perform at BlueWater. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 day-of-show.

- On Tuesday February 14, 2006, Ray Price returns to BlueWater to perform two shows on Valentine Day. There will be two shows that night, with the first at 5 p.m. and the second at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$27 in advance and \$32 day-of-show.

## Dig Lounge Schedule

Live entertainment will perform in the Dig

**Please see EVENTS, Page 10**



## Messenger Interviews...

### Miss CRIT Susan Ann Welsh

Susan Ann Welsh was crowned the new Miss CRIT recently, and her life has been very busy ever since.

"I've gotten to travel to a lot and see a lot of different tribes up and down the river," she said. "I've already learned a lot about other tribes, especially the Mohave cultures and traditions. Some of them are different than ours, but still similar."



**Susan Ann Welsh**

She's also holding down a full-time job with the CRIT Recreation Department, and is just off the heels of receiving her Bachelor's Degree from

Utah State University.

Her areas of emphasis in college were psychology, sociology and family and human development, and she said being Miss CRIT is a natural fit for her interests.

"This is what I like to do," she said. "I like working with kids and being involved in the community,

and scheduling and participating in community events."

Welsh said that her family and sense of community made her want to become Miss CRIT.

"If you ask my Mom, she'd say I wanted it, and that I've wanted to represent my family and give back to the community," Welsh said.

The 23-year-old Welsh is Navajo, Mohave and Chemehuevi, and said she is looking forward to representing all Tribal members while upholding Native cultures and helping the community.

She said she hopes to serve as a role model for CRIT's young people, but only in the right kind of way.

"I wouldn't want them to look up to me just because of the Miss CRIT title, but maybe because of what I've done in school and the fact that I've come back to the community afterwards," she said.

"I hope that my experiences would be a positive example for them."

Welsh plans to pursue a Masters' degree once she has completed her tenure as Miss CRIT.

## Colorado River Building Materials



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# Halloween costumes are scary stuff



On October 29, spooks, ghouls, goblins and Tribal workers filled Irataba Hall to celebrate Halloween at the annual CRIT Halloween Party. Those in costume paraded on stage, showing off their wares. Prizes were given to: the “Big Bad Wolf” for the scariest costume, the “Greatest Clown on Earth” for the second scariest, to the “Fat African Pygmy Princess” for the funniest, and “Yummy” for the ugliest. The “Undertaker & The Associate” won in the miscellaneous category, the Most Original and was the Sweepstakes winner.

# Legislation could boost Poston efforts

The U.S. Congress is currently considering legislation that could provide a dramatic and significant boost to efforts to preserve the Poston Internment Camp on the CRIT reservation.

The House of Representatives recently passed H.R. 1492, which would earmark \$38 million in federal funds for preservation of the sites where Japanese citizens were held in World War II.

The measure passed unanimously in the House after emotional testimony by one of its sponsors, Rep. Bill Thomas of California.

It is now under consideration by the Senate Committee on Energy and National Resources. If the Senate committee supports the legislation, it could be sent to the Senate floor for a vote. It would then have to be signed by the President.

The bill’s backers hope that the legislation could become law sometime next year. H.R. 1492 specifically mentions the Poston Internment Camp as one of the potential targets for federal funding, although no specific dollar amount is earmarked for the site. CRIT has been working with members of the Japanese-American community for several years now to jump-start efforts to restore the Poston site and preserve it for future generations. Plans for the site include restoration of some of the original buildings and the creation of a museum on the property. It is anticipated the restored camp would not only preserve an important part of America’s history, but would serve as a significant tourist attraction as well.

## Announcements

### Belated Birthday/Happy Birthday Wishes

From Ethelyn McCowan:  
To my sister Paula Evanston, Happy Belated Birthday — Nov. 21  
To my sister Lela McCowan, Happy Belated Birthday — Nov. 11  
To my niece Sherry Soliz, Happy 25th Birthday — December 5  
To our departed sister Claudia M. Evanston, whose birthday would also have been on December 5 with her daughter Sherry. She was taken from us in June 2002. We love you and miss you always. Your brothers Frank, Corwin, Maynic and the III; and sisters Paula and Ethie  
Happy 5th Birthday to my grandson Ephraim McCowan — January 12. From Grandma Ethie  
Happy Birthday to my nephew Lindsey Evanston — January 12. From Auntie Ethie  
Happy Birthday to my niece Maggie Logan — January 12. From Auntie Ethie

To my daughter Angie, Happy Birthday — January 20. From your Mom, brother Gator and sister Sarita  
Happy birthday to Satima Dick — January 14. From Ethie

### Birthday/Anniversary Wishes

• December 11: Happy Anniversary to Mom and Dad from Anisa, Robin, RaeAnne, Jenny, Ruby and Grandkids.  
• December 30: Happy Birthday Mara from your Nieces and Nephews  
• January 2: Happy Birthday to Scott Patch from your family  
• Happy Birthday Jacob from your Best Friend Anisa  
• Happy Birthday Auntie E.J. from Jolene and Julian and the rest of the family.

To submit an announcement, see the contact information on Page 12 of this issue.

# CRIT BRIEFS

## News from around the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation

### CRIT receives large EPA grant

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded a grant of \$125,000 to CRIT to determine the potential hazards for children caused by lead-based paint in reservation buildings and homes.

The grant will be used by CRIT to provide education to Tribal members on the dangers of lead-based paint, especially to children and expectant mothers.

The funds will also be used to sample paint and soil in buildings and homes where children spend a great deal of time.

According to the EPA, lead-based paint is a major source of lead poisoning in children, and can also affect adults.

It can cause brain damage, impaired mental functions, retarded mental and physical development in children and reduced attention span.

Unborn children, infants and young children are most at risk.

For more information on the dangers of lead-based paint, visit [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead).

### CRIT Library December activities

• Santa Christmas Gift Box Drawing: A gift box filled with goodies will be picked for a boy, girl and adult on December 23 at 11 a.m. in the library. You may enter at the library and see the gift boxes. Only one entry per day.

• Christmas Canned Food Drive – All donations may be dropped off at the library. All non-perishable foods accepted.

All donations will go to the La Paz Helping Hands Food Bank. The closing date is December 19.

If you have a donation and are unable to make it to the library, we can pick it up at your place of residence or work.

• December 7-8 – Crafts for the Kids from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

• December 13th – Computer Christmas Crafts. Create your own personalized greeting card from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

• December 14-15 – The library will be sponsoring a two-day book sale event, beginning at 8 a.m. and running until 1 p.m. Most books drastically reduced for sale.

• December 15 – Crafts for Kids, 3:30 to 5 p.m.

• December 19 – Adult Gingerbread Workshop. Everyone is invited to create their own special house. Supplies will be provided.

• December 20 – CRIT Library Holiday Open House, 5-7 p.m. The Parker community is invited to fun at the library. There will be CRIT Royalty, the CRIT Band and community carolers, plus lots of treats!

• December 22 – Adult Crafts by Colleen Humeuptewa. Create a special craft from noon to 1 p.m.

For more information, please contact the CRIT Library at (928) 669-1331.

# 2005 — It was a very good year for CRIT

## From Page 1

southern boundary, were taken by the Federal Government in the early 20th century. Over the years, CRIT has made a number of efforts to get the lands back, but it wasn't until this past summer that the fruits of this labor paid off.

CRIT celebrated the return of the lands with a ceremony in late August attended by hundreds of Tribal members.

"This effort has been ongoing since 1915," said Tribal Chairman Daniel Eddy, Jr. "All the Tribal Councils since then have worked on this and asked for our land back. Time after time, we have been denied.

"But today, I'm happy to gather here with you on *our* land."

### New Wal-Mart center announced

In January, CRIT announced plans for a new Wal-Mart shopping center to be located across from the Safeway Plaza in Parker.

The shopping center is expected to provide a significant revenue source for Tribal programs, and will help with such goals as health care, elder services, education and law enforcement.

It will also provide hundreds of jobs for Tribal members and area residents, while increasing the shopping choices in the community.

Plans for the center have progressed throughout the year. For more information on the latest status of the center, see the article on Page 1 of this issue.

### CRIT, Blythe continue discussions on new casino

CRIT also continued to work with the City of Blythe and the State of California on the possible construction of a new casino in the California community.

CRIT and Blythe reached agreement on a number of measures to move the project forward. CRIT officials and Blythe officials are now working with the State of California on terms of a gaming compact.

### CRIT launches comprehensive tribal web site

Early in 2005, CRIT launched a comprehensive web site to provide information to Tribal members, tourists and those interested in doing business with the Tribes.

It was another in a string of tribal initiatives to improve communications as well as the life of members.

The web site is located at [www.critonline.com](http://www.critonline.com). The site provides a comprehensive overview of Tribal government, departments, services, businesses and tourist attractions. It also contains news and information, including back issues of the CRIT Tribal newspaper, the *Manataba Messenger*.

The site is primarily complete, but additional features and improvements will continue to be added over time.

### Tribal member drafted in first round

CRIT member Jacoby Ellsbury earned First-Team All-American honors this year for the baseball team at Oregon State University, batting over .400 for the season and helping his team reach the College World Series.



And, Ellsbury became a first-round draft pick of the defending World Series Champion Boston Red Sox, where he will play outfield in the same organization as All-Stars Johnny Damon and Manny Ramirez.

Ellsbury signed a contract with the Red Sox in early July, and started playing in the organization immediately.

"Being drafted by the defending World Champions and going to the College World Series are both dreams come true, and they happened within a week," he said.

### CRIT wins significant court case

A federal judge sided with CRIT in an August ruling that the federal National Indian Gaming Commission overstepped its statutory authority in



(Top Left) Blythe Deputy City Manager Butch Hull talks with CRIT Attorney General Eric Shepard, Tribal Chairman Daniel Eddy, Jr. and BlueWater Resort & Casino General Manager Robert Kingsley at a Blythe City Council meeting.

(Top Right) Dancers in traditional dresses participate in the blessing ceremony for the La Paz Lands in August.

(Left) CRIT member Jacoby Ellsbury played in the College World Series and was a first-round draft pick of the Boston Red Sox.

(Bottom Right) The celebration of the return of the La Paz Lands at the BlueWater Casino in August included a victory cake.

(Bottom Left) Revelers enjoy the La Paz County Fair in April at Manataba Park.



imposing standards on Class III gaming activities conducted by tribes.

The decision in the case, *Colorado River Indian Tribes v. National Indian Gaming Commission*, reinforces the distinct regulatory roles given to tribal, state and federal regulators, and prevents the federal agency from exercising authority that Congress gave to the tribes and states.

"This is an important decision because it stops a federal agency from overstepping its bounds and improperly imposing regulatory requirements in a way that's contradictory to federal law," said CRIT Tribal Chairman Daniel Eddy, Jr.

"Our sovereignty has been respected and this is good news for our people and all tribes."



# CRIT Fall Gathering celebrates Tribal cultures

## SPEAK OUT

What's on Tribal Members' minds...



**Tom Claw**  
**Navajo Code Talker**  
**On the Fall Gathering**  
"I like seeing all the Indian dancers and selling crafts with my wife."



**Geneva Moore**  
**On the Fall Gathering**  
"I enjoy being able to sell my crafts but mostly I come to watch my grandchildren dance with the Hopi Warrior Dance group."



**Anisa Patch and Jolene Ameelyenah**  
**On the Fall Gathering**  
"Our favorite part of the event is seeing the different dancers that come together from different areas to celebrate."



(Above) The Sunrise Dancers from the White Mountain Apache Tribe performed at the event.  
(Left) Little Miss CRIT Nikayla Martin helped host the Fall Gathering.  
(Far left) Derrick Myron from Tuba City was one of the many people from outside CRIT who performed.  
(Below) Mary Nopah is the director of the Atted Yazi dance group, which includes Blanca Quintero, Aleise Murphy and Nia Shiley. Not pictured is Alyna Amador.  
(Bottom) The Crown Dancers perform.

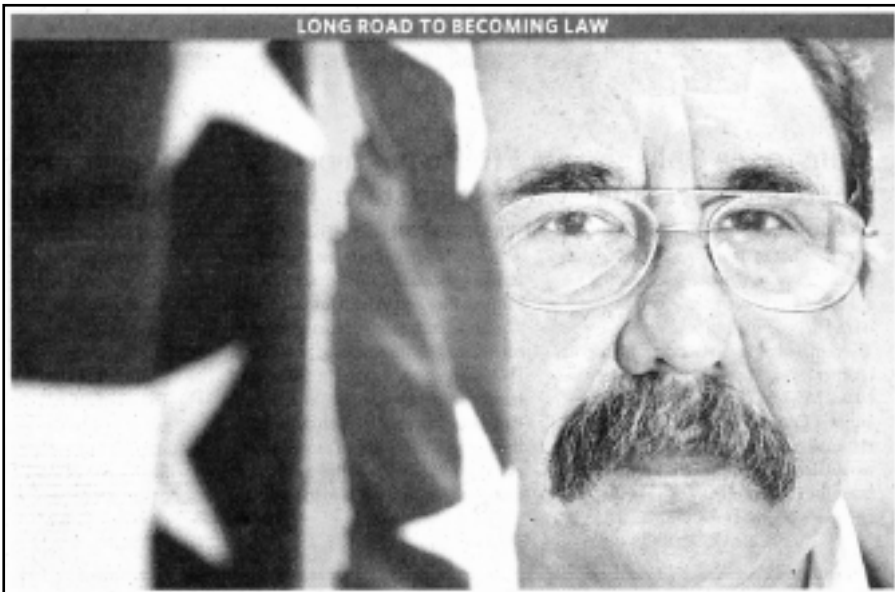


# Republic profiles Grijalva, CRIT, La Paz Lands fight

The Arizona Republic ran a front-page feature on December 5 profiling the efforts of CRIT, Congressman Raul Grijalva and the fight to return the La Paz Lands. It was the second front-page article the paper ran about the effort.

## THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

LONG ROAD TO BECOMING LAW



JACK KURTZ/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC  
U.S. Rep. Raul Grijalva, a Democrat from Tucson, ushered through Congress a measure to return 15,000 acres along the Arizona-California border to the Colorado River Indians Tribes.

## Tough path for Grijalva

### Congressman fought to return land to Indians

By Billy House  
REPUBLIC WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — The headline in August read: "Tribes getting land back after 90 years."

For the people of the Colorado River Indian Tribes, whose reservation is 189 miles west of Phoenix, the return of their ancestral La Paz lands would be celebrated with a dedication of blessings, speeches and dances at a remote desert site.

For Rep. Raul Grijalva, a two-term Democrat from Tucson, the first celebration came three weeks earlier when his bill to restore the lands was signed into law by President Bush. Grijalva had worked for two years to give back 15,375 acres taken in 1915 by President Wilson, something the late Sen. Barry Goldwater had twice attempted and failed to do.

In an average two-year congressional session there are more than 10,700 bills or resolutions introduced. About 23 percent are passed in either the House or the Senate, and less than 5 percent are signed into law. This year, the opening year of the current ses-

### Back to the tribes

More than 15,000 acres under federal control will be returned to the Colorado River Indian Tribes' reservation under a bill signed into law by President Bush.



Source: Bureau of Land Management

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

session, Arizona representatives and senators introduced 167 bills, have gotten 20 passed, and have seen just two signed into law.

One was an annual foreign-operations spending bill.

The other was Grijalva's bill, House Resolution 794.

The story of this bill illustrates the uphill battle most legislation faces, the delicate art of consensus building needed to get a measure passed, and, in the end, how government sometimes does serve the people who send elected officials to Washington.

At their invitation, Grijalva attended the tribes' celebration in the desert, "probably one of the most emotional things I've seen in a long time."

"I think that sometimes when we do legislation we think in the abstract," he said last week, "and we function in the abstract. But then afterward, when you feel and when you sense and when you see the impact, you go, 'OK, this was a very good thing.'"

### Land taken

Grijalva came to Congress in early 2003. But it was while campaigning the year before that he first met with representatives of the Colorado River Indian Tribes. They wanted to talk about an

See GRIJALVA Page A4

### GRIJALVA

Continued from A1

isolated 25-square mile tract of desert called "La Paz Lands," near the California-Arizona line. They came armed with a trail of documents, old Interior Department hearings and records, to tell their story.

Grijalva heard how the land was originally the southern part of the tribes' 270,000-acre reservation in western Arizona along the Colorado River. The reservation extends across the river into California, and is home to 3,600 members of the Navajo, Chemehuevi, Hopi and Mohave tribes.

The reservation was created in 1865 by President Lincoln a month before his assassination. A few years later the government decided to extend the southern boundary to prevent non-Indian encroachment. Under the administration of President Grant, a survey of these "La Paz," or "The Peace," lands was done, and the land was attached to the reservation by presidential order in 1876.

Over the years that followed, there was frequent conflict between the tribes and mining companies seeking minerals on the land.

By 1915 the continuing friction led to President Wilson's order to remove the La Paz section. The reason given was a boundary error in the survey. The tribes received no compensation for the land.

The tribes fought to get the land back, including letter-writing campaigns over the decades to government officials. Later, research compiled by the Interior Department showed there was no boundary error.

But the department argued for several decades that it did not have the authority to overturn a presidential order. Only Congress or the president could do that.

Grijalva decided the tribes' request was valid. In July 2003 he introduced a bill (then called House Resolution), to return the land. It was just his second bill in Congress.

The freshman congressman was optimistic, and later he realized, very naive. He assumed that merit alone would carry the bill through committees, Congress and to the President.

### Goldwater's bills

Grijalva was the second Arizona representative to introduce a bill to return the land. The first was Sen. Barry Goldwater.

Goldwater and former Sen. Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz., introduced bipartisan bills in 1980 and 1981 to restore the La Paz Lands to the tribes. Testifying in 1982 before the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, Goldwater cited his family's own ties to the land.

"You see, I feel very close to this because my grandfather settled in La Paz in 1860," he said. "At that time there was no question it was Indian land. The Indians were more numerous than non-Indians."

Despite Goldwater's efforts, neither of the bills won Senate approval. The problem was concerns over how water rights would be addressed.

There was even less support in the U.S. House. Former Rep. Bob Stump, R-Ariz., whose district included the reservation, showed little interest when approached by the tribes through the late 1990s. Stump decided not to seek re-election in 2002 after 13 terms in Congress.

Grijalva was elected in 2002 and took over part of Stump's old district, which included the reservation.

Tribal leaders saw an opening.

### A new bill

Once Grijalva decided to introduce a bill, he and tribal representatives began reaching out to other members of Congress. Grijalva knew that a Democrat in a Republican-dominated House would need all the help he could find.

By July, when he formally introduced the bill, he had the support of Arizona GOP Reps. J.D. Hayworth, Rick Renzi, and Jeff Flake, and Arizona Democratic Rep. Ed Pastor as co-sponsors. Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., would soon join them.

The trick was in consensus building, a process that Grijalva describes as "a bit like making sausage." Grijalva let it be known the tribe was willing to make some concessions. Perhaps just as important, he assured his fellow Arizona lawmakers the bill didn't require any government spending.

The support of Hayworth,

### The road to becoming law

As Congress nears the halfway mark of its two-year session, Arizona's two senators and eight House members have proposed 157 pieces of legislation. Only two of the 157 bills have moved through Congress and been signed into law by the president. Success with bills is one gauge of a lawmaker's effectiveness. Other measures include committee assignments, persuasiveness in floor debates and other public forums and the ability to obtain grants and other funding.

SENATE As of Nov. 26			
	Introduced	Passed by Senate	Signed into law
John McCain (R)	49	11	0
Jon Kyl (R)	19	1	0
Total bills and resolutions	2,488	489	*

HOUSE As of Nov. 26			
	Introduced	Passed by House	Signed into law
John Shadegg (R)	19	2	0
Jeff Flake (R)	19	0	0
Rick Renzi (R)	18	2	0
J.D. Hayworth (R)	17	0	0
Raul Grijalva (D)	10	2	1
Jim Kolbe (R)	10	1	1
Ed Pastor (D)	4	0	0
Trent Franks (R)	2	1	0
Total bills and resolutions	5,660	564	*

\* President Bush signed 105 of the 111 bills advanced to him by Congress.

Source: Library of Congress

JAMES ABUNDIS/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Flake and Renzi was especially important because they, along with Grijalva, sat on the House Resources Committee. That panel would have the first look at the bill and determine whether it should advance.

Later that summer, Rep. Richard Pombo, R-Calif., scheduled the first hearing on the bill for April 21, 2004.

Almost immediately, Grijalva began to experience the give-and-take politics of passing a bill.

Months before the hearing, Grijalva was approached by a House Resources Committee staff member who told him the deal might not happen if the land return included gaming rights.

Grijalva's first reaction was to fight. He thought of gaming as a sovereignty issue for the tribes and did not feel comfortable giving that right away while returning the land. But after tribal leaders told Grijalva that getting the land back was more important, he agreed to leave gaming rights out.

The next snag involved two parcels totaling 840 acres created within the La Paz Lands

along Interstate 10 as state trust land.

Initially, the tribes wanted these parcels included in the transfer. But they agreed to compromise. The state would continue to have access along I-10.

Then came a question of public access for hunting and fishing. The bill made no provision.

And Grijalva had also not addressed the old question of water rights.

Although the tribes would have preferred to get the La Paz lands back with no strings attached, they agreed not to demand federally reserved Colorado River water rights. But they would gain jurisdiction over patrolling and licensing hunting and fishing.

Grijalva also began hearing that some nearby communities were afraid the land deal would hem them in and limit development along I-10.

Grijalva realized he might have prevented all this had he spent more time beforehand consulting with parties potentially affected by his bill. But now he had to scramble, or as he put it, "to backtrack after

the fact." He did and community opposition dissipated.

Grijalva tried to resolve all issues before the bill's first hearing in April 2004. But in the hearing, new concerns were raised by the federal government.

The Bush administration supported "the objective of the bill," said Michael Olsen, the Interior Department's then-counselor to the assistant secretary for Indian Affairs. But Olsen warned that the status of current rights of way and mining leases needed to be addressed.

While I-10 was a perpetual right of way, along with three oil and gas pipelines, Olsen said other rights of way had been established and the Bureau of Land Management had issued seven mining contracts.

Despite the questions, Grijalva felt good that the Interior Department supported giving the land back. Sometimes consensus building is seeing the glass half full.

### House approval

By September 2004, Grijalva had discussed the right of way and lease issues with the tribes and gotten their approval to let them stand.

On Sept. 15, 2004, Pombo's Resources Committee approved the bill's language.

On that same day Grijalva's bill was unanimously voted out of committee. On Sept. 28, 2004, Grijalva's bill was passed in a voice vote by the entire House.

The swiftness of the floor action caught Grijalva by surprise. He had come prepared with a speech, but was never asked to make his case. Sensing how he felt, a more senior Democrat leaned over and told him to "just take it (passage) and not look a gift horse in the mouth."

Grijalva had no time to celebrate. With the national election just five weeks off, he needed to get his bill through the Senate quickly.

But by mid-October the bill was clearly stalled in the Senate. And then time ran out.

Grijalva learned then that no matter how much merit or uncontroversial a piece of legislation may be, rank-and-file lawmakers are not in control of the legislative docket. As everyone's attention turned to the election, Grijalva could only

watch his bill die as Congress ended its session.

### Second attempt

Grijalva waited through the election and the arrival of the new Congress this year. On Feb. 14, he reintroduced his bill. Having already received a thorough going-over months earlier, the bill was quickly passed by the House on April 12.

The next day the bill was sent to the Senate where McCain, the new chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, was waiting.

McCain, as well as Arizona's junior senator, Republican Jon Kyl, were both supporters of Grijalva's reworked bill.

Grijalva could finally see the end of the long and winding road.

On July 26, McCain's committee unanimously approved Grijalva's bill. That same day it was sent to the Senate and passed.

Six days later, President Bush signed the bill into law, officially returning the land to the tribes.

In Arizona, tribal Chairman Daniel Eddy Jr., said, "It is the fair and right thing for the federal government to do."

### Hard lessons

Grijalva can now joke that he always thought his first successful bill would be something simpler, "like reforming the whole public education system." But he's proud to have helped return the land.

At the tribes' celebration, tribal members distributed T-shirts with words imprinted that summed up their struggle: "Victory 1915-2005 - La Paz Lands Restored."

The tribes have not decided how the land will be used, but tribal Attorney General Eric Shepard said any plan will benefit all 3,600 tribal members.

Through it all, Grijalva said his experience underscored for him the general frustration that he believes the American public has "in the almost excruciating slow pace" of congressional action.

"But things get done," he said.

"There are fairness issues, that kind of transcend the party labels, and the conservative-liberal designations. This was one of them."



# Introducing the First-Annual MANATABA MESSENGER “Best of Parker” Contest

**You can win \$100 if your picks match Tribal members’ picks**

The *Manataba Messenger* announces the first-annual Best of Parker contest.

Send us your opinions on what you think the best restaurants and other attractions are in the Parker area. We’ll publish the winners in the February 1st issue.

The person whose picks most closely match the winners will win \$100.

Simply fill out the form on the right with your picks for Parker’s best, cut it out, and mail it to:

Best of Parker  
c/o Rose & Allyn  
7051 E. 5th Avenue Suite B  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251  
Or e-mail them to [critnews@aol.com](mailto:critnews@aol.com)

Entries must be received by January 15. You must be a Tribal member to be eligible to win. So remember to send in your entry today!

## First-Annual Best of Parker Entry Form

Best restaurant:

Best Mexican food:

Best fast food:

Best breakfast:

Best ethnic food (Chinese, etc.):

Best sandwiches:

Best nighttime hangout:

Best area attraction:

Best natural attraction/outdoor area:

Best grocery store:

Best place to shop:

★★★★★

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# Tribal charter school on track

**Would provide more educational opportunities for CRIT children; help augment offerings by school district**

Efforts to open a new charter school on the CRIT reservation are still on track. The CRIT Education Department and CRIT Planning Department are working together and have finalized an application for the State Charter School Board. The school, if approved, would be called Four Nations Community School. It will begin as a kindergarten through 2nd grade elementary school, with grades added yearly. It would eventually be a kindergarten through 8th grade school. The educational emphasis will be to integrate traditional tribal culture into the curriculum. It will also emphasize teaching practices that are most successful with American Indian students. For more information, call the Education Department at (928) 669-8831.

## Tribal students receive gifts

**By Stacey Amador**  
CRIT Academic Counselor  
The CRIT Education Department, along with the University of Arizona, supplied 20 CRIT tribal students with clothing and school supplies on November 8 and 9. The Education Department determined who the recipients were based on information from the local school principals and the Education Department staff. Among the items that were given to the children included, pens, pencils, backpacks, shoes, and various clothing items.

## Counselors serve community

**By Stacey Amador**  
CRIT Academic Counselor  
CRIT Education Academic Counselors have been busy providing a variety of services to Tribal students and their parents. Stacey Amador and Michael Drennan Jr. are also working with the Parker Unified School District staff and teachers along with CRIT departments to help address issues that tribal students face. If you would like services from the Education Department, please feel free to stop by the office or call (928) 669-8831.

## CRIT celebrates academic success

**By Stacey Amador**  
CRIT Academic Counselor  
On November 10, 2005 the C.R.I.T. Education staff honored tribal students who obtained principal’s honor roll, honor roll and perfect attendance with a pizza party that included certificates and a raffle of three portable CD players. Congratulations to the students and the families of the recipients!

# CRIT, BlueWater plan for enjoyable holiday activities

## CRIT Recreation plans Christmas celebration; several New Year’s activities on tap at resort & casino

CRIT members will have a variety of activities to choose from to celebrate the holidays this year. The CRIT Recreation Department will hold its annual Christmas program on December 17 at Irataba Hall. The department will be asking local churches to sing Christmas songs and carols at the event. Additionally, at noon on the 17th, Santa Claus

will be arriving via helicopter to hear first-hand the Christmas wishes of CRIT children. There will also be candy for the children in attendance , and a program with entertainment throughout the day. For more information on the program, call the department at (928) 669-1350. Several activities will be taking place on New Year’s Eve at the BlueWater Resort & Casino. A New Year’s Eve party called “Puttin’ on the Ritz 2006” will be held in the Mohave I & II rooms at the resort.

The musical performance will be by Primetime, playing music from the 50s and 60s all the way to today. It is a package deal including room, meal and the show. For more information and to purchase a package, call (888) 243-3360 ext. 7656. Also at the resort on December 31, DNA, a variety dance band playing rhythm & blues, Motown, Top 40 dance and classic rock will perform in the Dig Lounge. The band will take the stage at 9 p.m. and will perform until closing.

## EVENTS,

From Page 3

Lounge every Wednesday through Saturday. Hours are from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, and until 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. DJ Billy Joe Preston will be in the Lounge on Sunday through Tuesday from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., with Karaoke on Monday nights.

- December 7-10: Chain Gang, with a female fronting a three-piece band playing classic rock, dance and Top 40.
- December 14-17: Swift Kick, a four piece band specializing in current dance music along with selections from the 50s through 90s.
- December 21-24: American Made, with a female fronting a four-piece band playing a full variety of dance music from the 50 and 60s, disco, country, Top 40 and oldies.
- December 28-31: DNA, a variety dance band playing rhythm & blues, Motown, Top 40 dance and classic rock.

DNA will go on at 9 p.m. on December 31 for the New Year’s Eve celebration in the Dig Lounge.

- January 4-7: Applause, with a female fronting a three-piece band playing hits from the 50s and 60s, classic rock and country.
- January 11-14: Pilot, with a female fronting a three-piece band playing rhythm & blues from the 50s and 60s, Top 40 dance, classic rock, old school and disco.
- January 18-21: Suite 33, a high-energy variety dance band featuring Top 40, classic rock, 50s and 60s and variety dance.
- January 25-28: Swift Kick will perform music from the 50s through 90s.

## Casino offers room rates, specials

The BlueWater Resort & Casino now has new room rates, breakfast specials in the Garden Cafe and a "2 for 1" buffet in the Feast for Slot Club members on Sunday through Thursday starting December 4. Active Slot Club Member can start receiving coupons for the "2 for 1" special December 1. Any active Slot Club Member may present their card at the Slot Club to receive a coupon to be redeemed at the Feast. This "2 for 1" is good only Sunday through Thursday and is not valid with any other coupons or discount. One "2 for 1" coupon per day per active Slot Club Member.



The Federal Indian Health Services agency recognized Mona Duran for her work at an event in November.

## EPO employee recognized for service

### Mona Duran receives award from Federal agency for efforts to stop illegal dumping on CRIT reservation

Mona Duran of the CRIT Environmental Protection Office recently received an “Exceptional Performance Award” from the federal Indian Health Services agency for her efforts to stop illegal dumping on the reservation. The award is unique because Duran was the only person in the IHS’s western region to receive the honor who was not an employee of the agency. She was nominated for the award by an IHS staff member who was impressed by her work with an IHS grant to stop illegal dumping. It recognized her efforts both in enforcement and in community outreach to get people to stop dumping. Duran not only enforced regulations that shut down many illegal dump sites, she worked in the

“I wasn’t expecting (the award). I love what I do, and I wasn’t expecting to get an award for doing something I love to do.”

— Mona Duran  
CRIT Environmental Protection Office

community to educate members on the problems illegal dumping can create. “I was very honored,” Duran said. “I was surprised, since I was the only person in the region to get such an award. I wasn’t expecting it. I love what I do, and I wasn’t expecting to get an award for doing something I love to do.” The award was presented at an event in mid-November at the Heard Museum in Phoenix. The recognition was for her “diligent efforts in community outreach and for improving the quality of life for the Colorado River Indian Tribes,” Duran said.

# Last direct descendent of Chief Manataba passes away

## Hattie Manataba Wade Lopez, 95, was daughter of legendary Mohave chief

(Editor's note: This article was submitted by Delford Stevens, nephew of Hattie Manataba Wade Lopez.)

We come to the end of an era, a dynasty, a time when the direct lineage of a chief comes to an end.

Hattie Manataba Wade Lopez, 95, the last surviving child of Chief Manataba — who was the last ruling chief of the Mohave people — passed away in Parker on October 23, 2005.

Spanning 95 years, she takes her direct lineage, language, culture and history of the changes of her beloved reservation and people.

Born in 1910 on the CRIT Reservation, she lived on the California side of the river across

from the now BIA Agency in an adobe structure built by her father and brothers. Some of the foundation is still visible today.

She also lived in a small community called Midway, where her mother cooked for workers who were constructing the railroad between Bouse and Swansea. They moved back to the reservation, where her mother continued to cook at other places.

Her family's clan name was "Mus," taken from the Mohave creation story that refers to the mesquite Screwbean.

When her father passed away during the flu epidemic of 1916, family members chose other names, a tradition practiced during that time. Thus, she took the name of Wade. Under the clan system, people can have different names but

still be a direct descendent.

Like many children during that time, she was taken from her home and family and put into a boarding school, which was located where the Tribal offices now stand.

There, they taught her the English language for children who only spoke in their native tongue. They were punished if they were caught conversing in their native language.

She was later taken to another school on the Fort Mohave Reservation in Needles, and then enrolled in the Phoenix Indian School. There, she acquired the skill of being a switchboard operator.

During the summer months, one of the school programs was to place students into various homes so they could learn the domestic lifestyle of a different culture. Some were sent as far away as Los Angeles and Prescott.

After completing her education, she returned to her family on the CRIT reservation. She gained employment at the old clinic, which was also located at the site of the current Tribal offices. Here she met her future husband, Augustine R. Lopez, and they were wed on June 6, 1933.

They started their family on a ranch that was owned by Mr. Lopez' family on the Bill Williams River below the Swansea area. Mr. Lopez, a mining engineer, worked the mines in the Bouse area.

In 1944, tragedy struck and he passed on while working with the dredging operations below Parker Dam.

The family relocated to the Phoenix area while she was employed at the old Phoenix Indian Hospital, as a nurses' aide, in a sanatorium for tuberculosis patients.

After the new Phoenix Indian Medical Center was completed, she transferred to the kitchen department as a cook.

A few years before her retirement, she moved back to Parker and was employed with the Indian Health Services inpatient department again as a nurses' aide and later a cook.

In 1968, she retired after a swimming accident left her son a quadriplegic and she chose to care for him and his children. She was a caregiver until the children were out on their own and her son passed on in 1993.

During that period, she also cared for her sister, who was bedridden with arthritis until her passing in 1978.

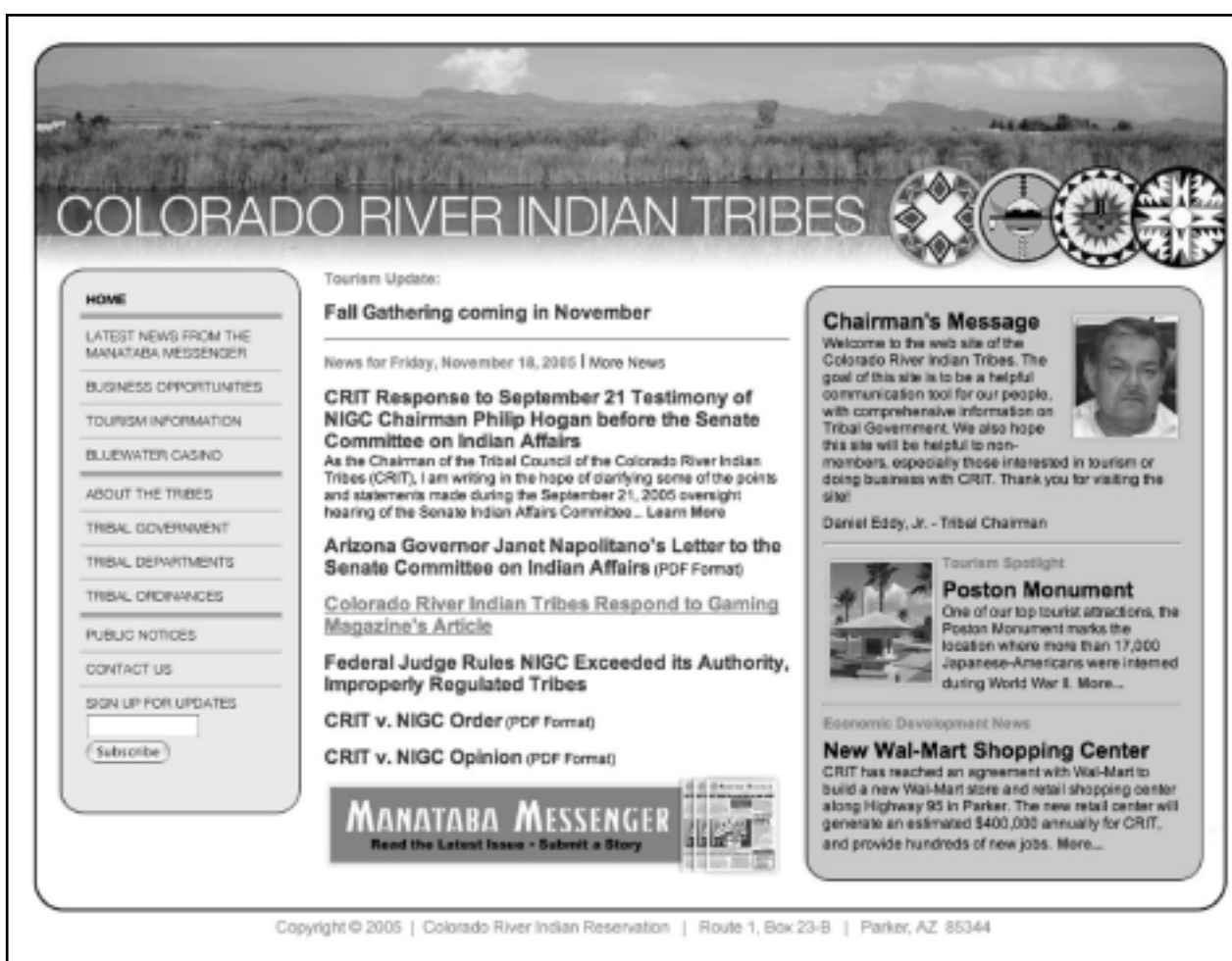
Hattie Manataba Wade Lopez was preceded in death by her son Augustine Lopez, Jr., and is survived by her daughter, Angelina Mario Robbins, and many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

She used to tell how the family would travel to Phoenix in a covered wagon, and it would take up to a week.

She lived through the space age, television, the building of the dams on the river, the atomic bomb and changes in her homeland.

Her last public appearance was as the Grand Marshall in the Indian Days Parade of 1995.

A very modest, quiet and giving person, she lived a healthful, loving and meaningful life. Her family and friends will surely miss her and will never forget her.



## Web site informs thousands of people

### First year for www.critonline.com a success; improvements continue

The official CRIT Tribal web site, www.critonline.com, has enjoyed a strong first year, providing thousands of Tribal members and outsiders with important information about the Tribes.

By the end of the year, more than 9,000 visitors will have gone to the web site, generating more than 425,000 "hits" and more than 100,000 page views.

Most visited were the Tribal department sites, where the departments post everything from basic contact information to detailed overviews of their services and tips for Tribal members and visitors.

The web site has also provided a valuable resource to outsiders interested in doing business with the Tribes. Tribal officials report

### CRIT Web Site Stats for 2005

**TOTAL HITS: More than 425,000**  
**TOTAL PAGEVIEWS: More than 100,000**  
**TOTAL VISITORS: More than 9,000**

that several potential business contacts have been made as a result of CRIT's online presence. CNN also contacted CRIT about a possible story after visiting the site.

Further enhancements and improvements to the site are planned in the coming months, including adding more department information and posting key documents, ordinances and other information.

The web site also has all back issues of the *Manataba Messenger* since the publication's re-launch in late 2003.



We Want To Hear From You!

The *Manataba Messenger* is a publication of the Colorado River Indian Tribes.  
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Also, for a comprehensive listing of key tribal information, back issues of *The Manataba Messenger*, tourism information and other CRIT Tribal information, visit the Tribes' web site:

www.critonline.com

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For more information, please call (928) 669-1233 or 669-1223.

Airport runway expansion underway

New runway will meet current, future needs and allow larger planes to land

Plans to build a new main runway at the CRIT/Parker Airport are underway thanks to a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration.  
The runway expansion could be a significant boost to the local economy because it would allow larger planes to come to the area, and make the airport more of a hub for air traffic.

CRIT recently received a \$450,000 grant for planning of the runway expansion, the first phase of a three-year project that will culminate with the runway's completion in 2008.

Technically, the current runway at the airport will become a taxiway, with a new main runway constructed alongside it.

The current runway is 4,750 feet long (just less than a mile) and 75 feet wide.

When completed, the new runway will be 6,250 feet long (about 1.2 miles) and 100 feet wide.

The expansion is being done to "meet the existing and projected aviation demand" in the area, said Rick Ench, CRIT Tribal Planner.

Ench said that the overall price tag for the

CRIT/Parker Airport Expansion

CURRENT RUNWAY: 4,750 feet long and 75 feet wide

FUTURE RUNWAY: 6,250 feet long and 100 feet wide

project will be approximately \$4.5 million, the majority of which will be covered by FAA grants. CRIT is providing the land for the runway, as it does for the current airport.

The existing runway will also be improved, but that will take place once this project is completed.

The Arizona Department of Transportation is participating in the runway expansion, but is not providing funding for the effort.

When completed, the new runway will allow larger planes to land at the airport and increase the facility's capacity, which Tribal officials hope will make Parker a more attractive destination for air travellers coming to the region. That, in turn, could boost economic development.

WAL-MART,

From Page 1

Wal-Mart is a good start and something that all sides can work with," said Tribal Chairman Daniel Eddy, Jr. "I'm sure both sides will have some questions and modifications as the process moves forward.

"But overall, we're looking forward to the eventual completion of this center and the economic impact it will bring."

Tribal officials say the project would provide a new economic engine for the community.

As proposed, the new store will be approximately 100,000 square feet and include

groceries as well as general merchandise.

In addition to creating more shopping choices for area residents and tribal members, the economic impact and job creation from the shopping center for CRIT will be substantial.

The new Wal-Mart store will create an estimated 200 new jobs and up to \$400,000 per year in sales tax revenue for CRIT.

The shopping center's other stores and restaurants are also expected to have a positive economic impact on the Parker and CRIT communities.

The additional revenue will be used to fund and enhance tribal health care, elder services, public safety and other services provided by the Tribes.



COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES  
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Happy Holidays to you and your family!  
— The Manataba Messenger

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